

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

28 January 1982

82-4208/2


MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Edwin Meese, III  
Counsellor to the President

SUBJECT: Cabinet Council on Legal Affairs

This is in response to your memorandum of 25 January 1982 for comments on the new Cabinet Council on Legal Affairs. I think the Council is an excellent idea and will provide needed coordination for the Administration on matters that have important legal and policy aspects.

I wonder, however, how a group made up of a number of non-lawyers would find the time, patience, or expertise to consider the legal ramifications of important policy matters. Perhaps your objective could be accomplished by having each member of the Cabinet bring with him his General Counsel or other key legal adviser to provide the requisite guidance on the legal issues. As an alternative, you might want to establish a legal working group comprised of the respective departments' chief legal advisers to review the legal issues and ensure a full presentation of the legal views, as well as a broader assessment of the ramifications and consequences of adoption of a given Administration position.

I raise this issue because I believe that the proposed Council is somewhat different than the other Cabinet councils that are now in operation. I am available to discuss my ideas with you if you believe further exploration would be helpful.



William J. Casey

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